

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 162054Z JUL 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO USMISSION NATO
CINCUSNAVEUR
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167547

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IT

SUBJECT: HOMEPORTING IN ITALY

REFS: (A) ROME 9546; (B) STATE 153295

1. DEPARTMENT AND DEFENSE CONCUR IN THE LOW-KEY APPROACHES
AT THE OFFICE DIRECTOR LEVEL RECOMMENDED IN PARA 4, REFTEL
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A.

2. IN A SEPARATE BUT RELATED MATTER, THE NAVY HAS ALSO DETERMINED THAT USS ALBANY (CG-10) WILL RELIEVE USS LITTLE ROCK (CG-4) FOR THE PERIOD THAT LITTLE ROCK MUST RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES FOR OVERHAUL. THE RELIEF WILL TAKE PLACE IN GAETA DURING JULY AND AUGUST 1976. SINCE ALBANY'S TOUR IN THE SIXTH FLEET WILL BE IN THE NATURE OF TWO YEARS, THE ALBANY FAMILIES WILL REPLACE THE LITTLE ROCK FAMILIES IN GAETA. THE NAVY NEEDS TO DECLASSIFY THE CHANGES OF HOMEPORT FOR THESE SHIPS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 1.

3. YOU ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED ALSO TO INFORM THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE AT THE OFFICE DIRECTOR LEVEL OF THE PROSPECTIVE RELIEF OF LITTLE ROCK BY ALBANY. THE PIEDMONT AND LITTLE ROCK NOTIFICATIONS MAY BE MADE EITHER SIMULTANEOUSLY OR SEPARATELY AT EMBASSY DISCRETION. KISSINGER

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